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Tel Aviv 8315

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20-10
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 PPT-02 SCA-01 P-03 PRS-01 SS-14 NSC-10 RSP-01 SY-05 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6681

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DEPT ALSO FOR PPT

SUBJ: MEIR KAHANE ACQUIRES ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP

Pol 13-10
Pol 12 US
XV P 12/21/72

REF: TEL AVIV A-3451, OCT 4, 1972, TEL AVIV 7009

SUMMARY: JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE LEADER KAHANE ACQUIRED ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP DEC 20 FOR EXPRESS PURPOSE OF RUNNING IN KNESSET ELECTIONS NEXT FALL AS HEAD OF EXTREME RIGHT WING POLITICAL PARTY HE IS FORMING (REFTEL). EMBASSY PLANS TO DECLINE ANSWER ANY PRESS QUESTIONS ABOUT EFFECT ON KAHANE'S US CITIZENSHIP ON BASIS THAT WE DO NOT KNOW UNDER WHICH PROVISION OF ISRAELI LAW KAHANE ACQUIRED ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP AND ON BASIS OF 8 FAM 247.4 AND 8 FAM 216.8 UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED. END SUMMARY.

(2) 1. ISRAEL RADIO AND UPI REPORTED THAT INTERIOR MINISTRY GRANTED RABBI MEIR KAHANE ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP DEC 20 AFTER DECIDING HE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY. KAHANE WHO CAME HERE TO RESIDE ONE YEAR AGO, ACCORDING TO PRESS "APPLIED" FOR ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP UNDER LAW OF RETURN FOUR MONTHS AGO. KAHANE REPORTEDLY HAD SOUGHT SUPREME COURT ORDER NISI LAST WEEK CALLING ON INTERIOR MINISTRY TO SHOW CAUSE WHY CITIZENSHIP SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED, SINCE KAHANE CLAIMED MINISTRY WAS DELAYING HIS ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP.

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2. KAHANE NOTED TO NEWSMEN THAT ACQUISITION OF ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP NOW CLEARS WAY FOR HIM TO RUN FOR KNESSET SEAT IN FALL 1973 ELECTIONS AT HEAD OF JDL LIST. WHILE KAHANE SAYS HIS CHANCES GOOD TO WIN ONE OR TWO SEATS, MOST OBSERVERS DO NOT AGREE. KAHANE GENERALLY VIEWED AS INTERLOPER AND TROUBLEMAKER. IN FACT, WITHOUT HIS NAME ON LIST SOME OF SABRA JDL MEMBERS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BETTER CHANCE OF SUCCESS IN KNESSET ELECTIONS.

3. KAHANE REPORTEDLY SAID US LAW ALLOWS HIM TO REMAIN AMERICAN CITIZEN WHILE HOLDING ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP AS WELL AS THAT HE INTENDS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS TO CARRY BOTH PASSPORTS. COMMENTING ON INTERIOR MINISTRY DECISION GRANTING HIM ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP, KAHANE REPORTEDLY SAID IT PROVES ONLY WAY TO GET THINGS DONE IN ISRAEL IS TO BANG ON TABLES.

4. EMBASSY ANTICIPATES PRESS INQUIRIES ON EFFECT OF ACQUISITION ISRAELI CITZENSHIP AND POSSIBLE KNESSET CAMPAIGN WILL HAVE ON STATUS KAHANE'S US CITIZENSHIP. EMBASSY PLANS TO DECLINE COMMENT ON THIS CASE TO PRESS ON BASIS THAT EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW PROVISIONS OF ISRAELI LAW UNDER WHICH KAHANE ACQUIRED ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP AND ALSO ON BASIS OF 8 FAM 247.4 AND 8 FAM 261.82 UNLESS DEPT SEES PROBLEMS WITH THIS APPROACH.

EXEMPT

BARBOUR

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